Eco-tourism in Goa

817. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Goa has any scheme for Eco-tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether the State Government of Goa has been given any financial assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the assistance given till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government of Goa, under the Western Ghat Development Programme, has developed basic facilities of accommodation, Nature Interpretation Centre, Nature Library, etc. for promotion of eco-tourism at Bondla and Mollem.

(c) and (d) In the current financial year, a Mega Project for Rs.4309.91 lakh has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism to the Government of Goa for Integrated Development of Infrastructure for Heritage and Hinterland Tourism in Goa, which includes eco-tourism components.

Promotion of tourism in Majuli island in Assam

818. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not sanctioned any amount since 2003 to promote the majuli Island to attract foreign tourists in Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is planning any special package to Majuli for development of the island to attract more tourists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.
3. Information Technology
4. Fairs/Festival and Events

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned a project-Development of Heritage & Ecotourism Resort at Majuli for Rs. 382.25 lakh to the Government of Assam in the year 2002-03.

Promotion of tourism in BTAD

819. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any initiative to boost up tourist spot being a tourist potential area of the Bodoland Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD) as well as Indo-Bhutan border;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons for not making any arrangement for the tourist spot;

(d) how many projects have been taken up by Government during the financial year *i.e.* 2007-08 and 2008-09 in the country and completion status stage of those projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits which are identified in consultation and interaction with them and sanctioned subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned 3 projects for BTAD in Assam *viz:*

1. Circuit Development of Manas - Guwahati - Kaziranga for Rs. 781-00 lakh in 2005-06 out of which the amount allocated for Manas is Rs. 153.00 lakh
2. Eco Tourism Development at Kokrajhar for Rs. 460.00 lakh in 2005-06
3. Development of Tourist Circuit Dhubari-Mahamaya-Barpeta-Hajo for Rs. 497.94 lakh in 2007-08 out of which Rs. 107.83 lakh was allocated for Bodoland areas such as Mahamaya Dham, Khoraghat in Bogribari; Chakrashila and Gosaigaon

(d) to (f) A Statewise list showing number of projects sanctioned along with the total Central Financial Assistance (CFA) given to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 is at given in the Statement (*See* below).

Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of the projects front time to tune. The balance fund for a project is released only on receipt of completion/utilization certificate in respect of the installment released earlier for it.